

# St John's, Pevensey Road



**Pewsheets for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**

The Feast of the Epiphany



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - whether you are here in person, or viewing via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listening via the Media/Audio page. [www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast](http://www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast)

## This week:

**Morning Prayer:** is said in the main church at 9 a.m, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday

**The church is open for private prayer:** 9:30 a.m. - 12:30, Monday - Saturday

**Midweek Mass:** celebrated in the main church at 10 a.m. on Wednesday

**"Zoom" service:** 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

## Hymn of the week - We Three Kings



Its lilting rhythm and interesting key changes has ensured We Three Kings' place as a distinctive and popular carol. It was composed in 1857 by American clergyman and hymnodist, John Henry Hopkins. Its original use was for an elaborate Nativity drama Hopkins was staging, with male singers taking the part of the three gift-bearing kings. Nowadays of course the verses tend to be sung by all - well, in normal times anyway...

It's intended as an Epiphany carol. But with its great tune and message of hope, this popular carol – which was originally published as 'Three Kings of Orient' – is still one of the most frequently performed throughout the entire Christmas season, including before Christmas Day.

The carol tells the story of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection – and the melody alternates between regal, "minor key" verses, in which the Three Wise Men announce what gifts they're presenting to the son of God, and a major chorus joyfully proclaiming the beauty of the star guiding their way to the manger.

Oh, and it does, of course, lend itself to some great parody versions! 😊



### ***This week's urgently needed items:***

- Tinned potatoes,
- Sweet treats
- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life custard.

### ***Also welcomed:***

- Toiletries, loo rolls
- Tinned veg, fish, meat, rice pud, fruit.

*They currently have plenty of pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, baked beans*

***Thank you***

### **People for whom our prayers are asked:**

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Jackie F, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Liisa & Junior, and Libby V.

### **Please pray also for...**

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Brian Webb, Peter Turnbull, Jean Broscheit, Pat, Sara, and Tracey P,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Vivienne Harvey, Arnold Kingsnorth, Bob Byrom, Reg & Rita Burge, and Peter Crighton,

...and all who mourn.



## Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

### Welcome

*Priest* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* Amen.

*Priest* The Lord be with you  
*All* and also with you.

### Prayer of Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon  
the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us  
to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*All* Almighty God,  
our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through  
weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus  
Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

### *The Priest says the Absolution*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your  
sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all  
goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

### *Then Gloria in Excelsis is said*

*All* Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of  
the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## The Collect

*Priest* Let us pray

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

*Isaiah 60.1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has  
risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your  
dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come  
to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be  
carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea  
shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall  
come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and  
Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of  
the LORD.

For the Word of the Lord

*All* Thanks be to God

## A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

*Ephesians 3.1-12*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus  
for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely  
you have already heard of the  
commission of God's grace that was  
given me for you, and how the mystery  
was made known to me by revelation, as  
I wrote above in a few words, a reading  
of which will enable you to perceive my  
understanding of the mystery of Christ.  
In former generations this mystery was  
not made known to humankind, as it has  
now been revealed to his holy apostles  
and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the  
Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,  
members of the same body, and sharers  
in the promise in Christ Jesus through  
the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant  
according to the gift of God's grace that  
was given me by the working of his  
power. Although I am the very least of all  
the saints, this grace was given to me to  
bring to the Gentiles the news of the  
boundless riches of Christ, and to make  
everyone see what is the plan of the  
mystery hidden for ages in God who  
created all things; so that through the  
church the wisdom of God in its rich  
variety might now be made known to the  
rulers and authorities in the heavenly

places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the Word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

### Gradual Hymn

We three Kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.  
*O star of wonder...*

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising, all are raising,  
Worship Him, God most high.  
*O star of wonder...*

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
*O star of wonder...*

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice.  
'Alleluia, alleluia!'  
Earth to heaven replies.  
*O star of wonder...*

*John Henry Hopkins (1822-1900)*

### Gospel Reading

*Dcn* Alleluia alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh,  
proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

*All* Alleluia.

*Dcn* The Lord be with you

*All* And also with you.

*Dcn* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew

*All* Glory to you, O Lord.

### Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us worship the Saviour with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The Magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration ...  
Lord of glory,  
**All hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:  
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds  
[at the beginning of this year] ...  
Lord of glory,  
**All hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ: Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...

Lord of glory,

**All hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:

Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer ...

Lord of glory,

**All hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:

Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families and this community of which we are a part ...

Lord of glory,

**All hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed...

In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

### **The Peace is introduced**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. *cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We may exchange a sign of Peace*

### **Preparation of the Table**

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;

accept the offering of your Church and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name.

**All Amen.**

*The president takes the bread and wine.*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and declare our joyful hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your  
glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source  
of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy  
Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our  
Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was  
betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,  
saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given  
for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death  
on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the  
sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and  
glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our  
redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this  
cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Saint John  
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the  
Mother of God, and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God, let us pray  
with confidence as our Saviour has taught  
us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All** God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.

**Agnus Dei is said:**

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
Have mercy on us  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
Grant us peace

## Giving of Communion

*The priest says the invitation to communion.*

Christ is the true bread which has  
come down from heaven.

**All** Lord, give us this bread always.

*Communion is received*

## Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post Communion:*

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations  
seek:

may we who with the wise men  
have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in  
your Son,

the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

**All** Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us  
home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of  
glory.

May we who share Christ's body  
live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to  
the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set  
before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your  
name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing and Dismissal

**Priest** The Lord be with you

**All** And also with you

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the  
image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good  
news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

We have seen his glory,  
the glory revealed to all the nations.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Concluding voluntary: Nun danket alle  
Got (Karg-Elert)**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. *1 John 1:5-7*



An epiphany enables you to sense creation not as something completed, but as constantly becoming, evolving, ascending. This transports you from a place where there is nothing new to a place where there is nothing old, where everything renews itself, where heaven and earth rejoice as at the moment of creation.

*Abraham Isaac Kook*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13*



Above: Hastings beach, Christmas morning 2020

Right: Hastings pier last week, with its "Hope" message boards



The whole life of Christ was a continual Passion; others die martyrs but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for to his tenderness then the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after, and the manger as uneasy at first as his cross at last. His birth and his death

were but one continual act, and his Christmas day and his Good Friday are but the evening and morning of one and the same day. And as even his birth is his death, so every action and passage that manifests Christ to us is his birth, for Epiphany is manifestation.

*John Donne (1572-1631)*



## On Tuesday (5<sup>th</sup> Jan) we remember St Simeon Stylites

Simeon Stylites (390 – 459) must be a candidate to be patron saint of all REALLY eccentric people...

Simeon was the son of a shepherd on the Syrian border of Cilicia. He joined a monastery near Antioch, where he practised mortifications and penances that nearly killed him. When the abbot dismissed him in disgust as crazy, Simeon moved on to Telanissos (nowadays Dair Sem'an) and spent his first Lent there in a total fast. He was found unconscious on Easter Day. After three years in that monastery he felt life was too easy, and so moved himself to the top of the nearby mountain, where he chained himself to a rock. He began to be talked about, and more and more people came to see him.

Simeon did not want their company, and so planned his escape: to the top of a pillar. For the next four years he lived on top of a pillar that was nine feet high. More people came by, and so Simeon in desperation added to his pillar, until it grew to be 18 feet high. Still people came to see him, and so three years later, Simeon built himself a real skyscraper – a pillar 33 feet high, from the top of which he enjoyed 10 years of comparative solitude.

Still people came to see him – both Christians and pagans, and so Simeon decided to somehow build a pillar that was 60 feet high and six feet wide. Here he found peace and quiet, and so here he lived for the last 20 years of his life. People still came to see him, and tried to catch the 'sacred' lice that fell off his body. Even Emperors came to hear him preach.

A scholar has written of Simeon: "His preaching was practical, kindly, and gave witness to the need for penance and prayer; his way of life provided a spectacle at once challenging, repulsive and awesome."

Simeon finally died and was buried at Antioch. Perhaps he would have enjoyed the chance to take the plinth at Trafalgar Square!

Fiona M would like to draw our attention to a remarkable inclusive version of **Handel's Messiah** that was created last year - a Canadian production done in partnership with Against the Grain Theatre and the Toronto Symphony. There is great diversity reflected in the performers, including many indigenous performers, sometimes singing Handel's songs translated into their own native language. Going to <https://bit.ly/3fvAizZ> takes you to the Against the Grain Theatre site, with trailers for the performance and details for streaming it.

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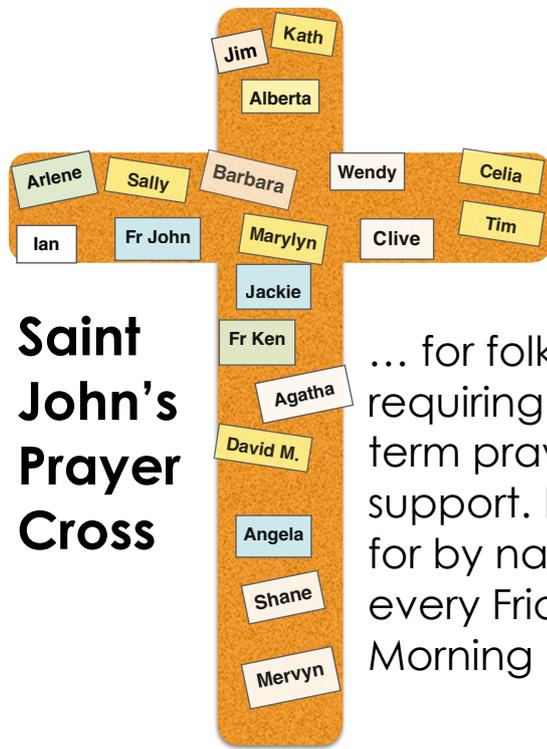
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## Saint John's Prayer Cross

... for folk requiring longer term prayer support. Prayed for by name every Friday at Morning Prayer.